



EI-news

IRTS supporting Amateur Radio



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IRTS Membership Initiative



You may have heard or seen some information on a new initiative just launched and designed to encourage new licence holders to join the Society. Historically only a few holders of new EI licences join the IRTS, although all enjoy the benefits achieved on their behalf by the society in retaining and expanding the spectrum available to EI operators. This comes at a cost in attendance at IARU meetings. It is mainly for this reason that we are anxious to have as many new licence holders join the Society as possible. The new initiative offers the first year's membership to the IRTS free of charge. To qualify the new EI licence must have been obtained after 1st January 2016, and the initiative will run to the end of March 2017. The licence must be in a personal capacity, not a club, contest or special call. Existing members of the society who obtain a licence within the period of the offer will qualify for a year's free membership after their current subscription expires.

New Publication

A HISTORY OF THE BIRDLIP
AERONAUTICAL
COMMUNICATION COMPLEX
(1940 - 2015)
By: Colin McKeeman



Communications from the Cotswolds

Colin McKeeman (EI1043) has written a History of the Birdlip Aeronautical Communication Complex (1940-2015). This 329 page book, with over 170 illustrations, covers the history of this vital HF (shortwave) communications station, which was situated in the Cotswolds region of the UK and had very strong and important links with the existing Irish Aviation Authority HF radio station at Ballygirreen, probably best known to aeronautical radio enthusiasts as 'Shanwick Radio'. The book covers the complete history of this station from its wartime beginning until its closure in 1976 and provides an insight into both the operations and staffing at this facility. The book costs €15 + p&p. Contact Colin at downrange@eircom.net

IARU News



The Radio Equipment Directive (RED) [2014/53/EU] came into effect on the 3rd June 2016. The Directive covers equipment placed on the market within the EU. For the first time frequencies below 9 KHz come under the directive; the RED covers all frequencies lower than 3000 GHz and broadcast receivers now come under the scope of the Directive. This gives the Directive a very broad scope including, for example, any equipment which includes a GPS receiver, Bluetooth, NFC or even a WiFi enabled electric kettle. The Directive has exemptions for radio equipment used by radio amateurs, kits of components to be assembled and used by radio amateurs, and radio equipment modified, constructed or modified by and for the use of radio amateurs. To give direction to Market Surveillance Organisations (MSO) a Guide is under preparation. Séamus EI8BP represents IARU on the drafting group for the RED Guide. The Guides are just that – they are to provide guidance and are not an attempt to legally interpret the acts of the European Parliament. They assist in the interpretation of the Directive but do not substitute for it. The legally binding provisions are those transposing the Directives at national level.

EI1A Green Energy Contesting



Olivier, ON4EI is back in Ireland from 2nd July to 12th August, 2016 to operate EI8GQB (EI1A) during the IARU HF World Championship July 9-10 and IOTA Contest July 30th -31st). 6m activity is also planned. Olivier scored, with EI1A, top Europe score in Low Power/Single Op SSB category using mainly green energy with his temporary 'Field Day like' antenna park setup. This year Olivier is competing to qualify for the WRTC 2018 in Germany.

Alexanderson VLF station



The annual transmission of the Alexanderson alternator on VLF 17.2 KHz with the call SAQ will take place on Sunday the 3rd of July at 09:00 UTC (tuning up from 08:30) and be repeated at 12:00 UTC (tune up 11:30). In addition the Amateur Radio Station with the call SK6SAQ will be active on the following frequencies: 7.035 KHz CW, 14.035 KHz CW, 21.035 KHz CW or 3.755 kHz SSB. Two stations will be on the air most of the time. The Varberg Radio Station at Grimeton in southern Sweden (built 1922–24) uses an Alexanderson Alternator and was added to the UNESCO World Heritage list on the 2nd of 2004. More info: <http://alexander.n.se/?lang=en>

UAE Amateur Satellite



The United Arab Emirates newspaper *The National* reports on the Nayif-1 spacecraft developed by Emirati students from the American University of Sharjah in partnership with The Mohammed bin Rashid Space Centre. The satellite is about 10 cubic centimetres and weighs about 1 kilogram. One of its most notable features is that it is programmed to transfer messages in Arabic. It is anticipated that Nayif-1 will be launched into an elliptical, sun synchronous, Low Earth Orbit approximately 400 by 750 Km. The spacecraft will only require a simple ground station antenna and an SDR dongle receiver. More information from <https://amsat-uk.org/satellites/communications/nayif-1/>

WG2XPN Experimental 4m Beacon

Brian, WA1ZMS, licensee of the 3 kW ERP 70.005 MHz WG2XPN beacon, reports the license has been renewed until the 1st of May, 2017. The Experimental License for WG2XPN with one-way only beacon operations on 70.005 MHz with 3 kW ERP from the US (QTH: FM07fm) This will offer the only 4m North American beacon a chance to be heard via TA in Europe for another 2 years. Brian is hoping for a repeat of the 7000+ km E-skip DX reports that took place in 2013. To all Irish stations on 4m: Remember to point your beam West during E-skip season and give a long listen on 70.005MHz.

JT65 on 6 Metres

With the recent excellent conditions on 6 metres, it has been possible to work some incredible DX using the JT65 mode. Monitor 50.276 MHz and the characteristic JT65 signals will be heard most days of the week.

Members Advertisements

For Sale

KENWOOD TM-271A VHF 2M transceiver with microphone as new condition. Comes with **KENWOOD KPS-10A** power supply for base operation or can be used in-car using mobile power lead also included plus mounting bracket, **TM-271A** manual and original box. **€210 ONO.**

Contact Eoin EI9O
on
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Contests – July 2016

[WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#) : [RSGB HF Contests](#) : [UKEICC Contests](#) : [IRTS Contests](#)

Fri 1	00:00	24 hours	Canada Day SSB/CW	160-6m, work everyone, Serials, log VE province
Sat 2	14:00	24 hours	IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day	50, 70, 144, 432 & 1296 MHz, entries from /P stations
Sat 2	14:00	24 hours	Marconi Memorial CW	160m-10m, work everyone, exchange Serials
Mon 4	19:00	90 mins	RSGB CC CW	80m, work UK only, exchange Serials
Sat 9	12:00	24 hours	IARU HF SSB/CW	160-10m, work everyone, exchange ITU zone
Wed 13	19:00	90 mins	RSGB CC SSB	80m, work UK only, exchange Serials
Sun 17	09:00	6 hours	RSGB Low Power	80m-40m-20m, exchange Serial & power
Thu 21	19:00	90 mins	RSGB CC Data	80m, work UK only, exchange Serials
Sat 30	12:00	24 hours	RSGB IOTA	80-10m, work everyone, exchange Serials & Island ref.
Every	Wed	60 mins	CWops Mini Contests	160-10m, three separate CW contests

List compiled by Joe [EI7GY](#) (Times are UTC)